1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented process for assessing the vulnerability of a workstation to a security compromise, comprising the steps:

issuing a request for a scanner from a browser operating on the workstation to a network server via a computer network;

transmitting the scanner from the network server to the workstation via the computer network, the scanner installable within the browser and operative to complete a vulnerability assessment of the workstation to identify security vulnerabilities of the workstation that can compromise secure operation of the workstation on the computer network;

generating workstation credentials derived from the scanner conducting the vulnerability assessment of the workstation, the workstation credentials comprising at least one of information about integrity of the workstation and a security posture of the workstation;

comparing the workstation credentials to a workstation policy;

authenticating a workstation for access to the network server by granting the workstation access to one or more services available on the network server if the workstation credentials derived from the scanner are in compliance with the workstation policy;

if access to the one or more services available on the network server is granted to the workstation because the workstation credentials are in compliance with the workstation policy, issuing a request for credentials associated with a user;

receiving credentials associated with a user; and

authenticating a user of the workstation for access to the network server after said authenticating the workstation for access to the network server by determining if the user is authorized to access the one or more services available on the network server through evaluating the credentials associated with the user.

2. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of presenting the workstation credentials to the user of the workstation.

3. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the workstation credentials to the network server via the computer network.

4. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of completing a repair operation by the scanner to address a security vulnerability identified by the scanner in response to completing the vulnerability assessment of the workstation.

5. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1 wherein the scanner comprises a plug-in control operable with the browser and a data file defining security vulnerabilities.

6. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1, wherein the step of issuing a request for a scanner comprises the browser issuing a request for a Web page at the network server, the Web page hosting the scanner as a plug-in control available for installation with the browser.

7. (Original) A computer-readable medium comprising the computer-implemented process of Claim 1.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented process for authenticating a workstation requesting a software service, comprising the steps:

issuing a request for a scanner to a network server from a browser operating on the workstation;

transmitting the scanner and a workstation policy from the network server to the workstation via the computer network, the scanner installable within the browser and operative to generate workstation credentials by completing a vulnerability assessment of the workstation, the workstation credentials comprising at least one of information about integrity of the workstation and a security posture of the workstation;

comparing the workstation credentials to the workstation policy on the workstation to determine whether the workstation should be granted access to the software service;

authenticating a workstation for access to the software service by granting the workstation access to the software service available on the network server if the workstation credentials derived from the scanner are in compliance with the workstation policy; and

if access to the software service is granted to the workstation because the workstation credentials are in compliance with the workstation policy, authenticating a user of the workstation for access to the software service after said authenticating the workstation for access to the software service by issuing a request for user authentication in order to determine if a user of the workstation is authorized to access the software service available on the network server.

9. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 8, wherein the step of issuing a request for a scanner comprises the browser issuing a request for a Web page at the network server, the Web page hosting the scanner as a control operable with the browser.

10. (Original) A computer-readable medium comprising the process of Claim 8.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented process for authenticating a workstation requesting a network service from a network server via a computer network, comprising the steps:

issuing a request for a scanner to the network server from a browser operating on the workstation;

transmitting the scanner from the network server to the workstation via the computer network, the scanner installable within the browser and operative to generate workstation credentials by completing a vulnerability assessment of the workstation to identify security vulnerabilities that would compromise the secure operation of the workstation on the computer network, the workstation credentials comprising at least one of information about integrity of the workstation and a security posture of the workstation;

transmitting the workstation security credentials from the scanner to the network server via the computer network;

determining at the network server whether the workstation should be granted access to a network service of the network based on the workstation credentials; [[and]]

authenticating a workstation for access to the network service by granting the workstation access to the network service if the workstation credentials derived from the scanner are in compliance with the workstation policy; and

if access is granted to the workstation for the network service because the workstation credentials are in compliance with the workstation policy, authenticating a user of the workstation for access to the network service after <u>said</u> authenticating the workstation for access to the network service by issuing a request for information relating to user authentication in order to determine if the user is authorized to access the network service.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 11 wherein the network server comprises a CGI script and the step of determining whether the workstation should be granted access to the network service comprises the CGI script comparing the workstation credentials to a workstation security policy maintained at the network server to determine whether the workstation should be granted access to the network service;

wherein granting the workstation access to the network service comprises directing the browser to the log-in page via the computer network;

if the workstation credentials do not match the workstation security policy, then denying access to the network service and delivering an access denied page to the workstation via the computer network.

13. (Original) A computer-readable medium comprising the computer-implemented process of Claim 11.

14. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 11, wherein the step of issuing a request for a scanner comprises the browser issuing a request for a Web page at the network server, the Web page hosting the scanner as a plug-in control available for installation with the browser.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1, further comprising receiving credentials associated with a user from the browser.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented process of Claim 8, further comprising receiving credentials associated with a user from the browser.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented process of Claim 17, further comprising authenticating the user based on the credentials.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented process of Claim 11, further comprising receiving credentials associated with a user from the browser.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented process of Claim 19, further comprising authenticating the user based on the credentials.

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